



District bars Lagos principal

Kyrene names district worker to be its liaison

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Kyrene school district has asked the principal of an elementary school that would back up to the proposed South Mountain Freeway not to serve on the state transportation planners' newly reconstituted Citizens Advisory Team.

Tonya Yalung, principal of Kyrene de los Lagos Elementary School, won't be serving on the committee because her husband works for the Arizona Department of Transportation, which would build the 10-lane, 22-mile freeway through Ahwatukee Foothills.

Kyrene district officials said they asked Yalung not to serve on the advisory committee - even without the potential conflict of interest - despite the school's former principal's involvement on the team.

"It's more of a district issue," district spokeswoman Jennifer Grentz said. "It's not one school's issue to be sitting on that (committee).

"We have more than one school that's sitting on that proposed freeway. One principal serving one school doesn't serve the needs of the district."

Six Kyrene schools sit within several miles of the proposed \$1.7 billion freeway along Pecos Road. A seventh school, a charter, also sits within a few miles.

Instead, Terry Tatterfield, assistant superintendent for business and finance, will represent the district on the committee. He will serve as a liaison between the committee and the district's board.

Yalung didn't return phone calls or e-mails seeking comment.

"She (Yalung) doesn't have an opinion on the freeway one way or another," Grentz said.

The newly reconstituted group began meeting late last week. It will meet periodically to make recommendations regarding the proposed freeway. A draft environmental impact statement is due out early next year.